

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) A catheter, comprising:

a hollow catheter body having a side wall and an aperture extending through a predetermined portion of the side wall;
a steering center support located within the catheter body; and
adhesive material located within the hollow catheter body such that at least a portion of the adhesive material is in the vicinity of the side wall aperture, the adhesive material securing the hollow catheter body to the steering center support.

31. (Currently Amended) A catheter as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:

a hollow catheter body having a side wall and an aperture extending through a predetermined portion of the side wall;
a steering center support located within the catheter body;
adhesive material located within the hollow catheter body such that at least a portion of the adhesive material is in the vicinity of the side wall aperture, the adhesive material securing the hollow catheter body to the steering center support; and
a guide coil secured to the hollow catheter body by the adhesive material.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A catheter as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:

a hollow catheter body having a side wall and an aperture extending through a predetermined portion of the side wall;
a steering center support located within the catheter body;
a sleeve covering at least a portion of the steering center support; and
adhesive material located within the hollow catheter body such that at least a portion of the adhesive material is in the vicinity of the side wall aperture, the adhesive material securing the hollow catheter body to the steering center support.

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34. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 30, wherein the steering center support defines a periphery and the adhesive material extends around the periphery of the steering center support.

35. (Original) A catheter as claimed in claim 30, wherein the catheter body defines a proximal end and a distal end and the side wall aperture is located substantially adjacent to the proximal end.

36. (Original) A catheter as claimed in claim 30, wherein the catheter body comprises a distal member and a proximal member secured to the distal member and the side wall aperture is located in the proximal member.

37. (Original) A catheter as claimed in claim 36, wherein the distal member includes at least one energy transmission element.

38. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 37, wherein the at least one energy transmission element comprises a tip energy transmission element, and the steering center support is connected to the tip energy transmission element.

39. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:

a torque transfer device located within at least a portion of the adhesive material and adapted to engage at least a portion of the steering center support and transfer torque to the steering center support.

40. (Previously Presented) A catheter, comprising:

a hollow catheter body proximal member defining a distal region;

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a hollow catheter body distal member defining a proximal region, the distal and proximal members being respectively located such that one of the distal region of the proximal member and the proximal region of the distal member overlaps the other, thereby creating an overlapping region;

a bond at the overlapping region securing the proximal member to the distal member; and

a steering center support located within at least the distal member and secured to at least one of the proximal member and the distal member.

41. (Original) A catheter as claimed in claim 40, wherein the bond comprises a thermal bond.

42. (Original) A catheter as claimed in claim 40, wherein the proximal member includes a side wall having an aperture formed therein.

43. (Previously Presented) A catheter, comprising:

a hollow catheter body proximal member defining a distal region and including a side wall having an aperture formed therein;

a hollow catheter body distal member defining a proximal region, the distal and proximal members being respectively located such that one of the distal region of the proximal member and the proximal region of the distal member overlaps the other, thereby creating an overlapping region;

a bond at the overlapping region securing the proximal member to the distal member;

at least one internal component located within at least the distal member; and

adhesive material connecting the proximal member to the at least one internal component, at least a portion of the adhesive material being in the vicinity of the side wall aperture.

44. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 40, further comprising:

a guide coil.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) A catheter, comprising:

a hollow catheter body proximal member defining a distal region;

a hollow catheter body distal member defining a proximal region, the distal and proximal members being respectively located such that one of the distal region of the proximal member and the proximal region of the distal member overlaps the other, thereby creating an overlapping region;

a bond at the overlapping region securing the proximal member to the distal member; and

a steering center support and a sleeve covering at least a portion of the steering center support located within at least the distal member.

47. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 40, wherein adhesive extends around the periphery of the steering center support.

48. (Original) A catheter as claimed in claim 40, wherein the distal member includes at least one energy transmission element.

49. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 48, wherein the at least one energy transmission element comprises a tip energy transmission element, and the steering center support is connected to the tip energy transmission element.

50. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:

a steering wire secured to the steering center support.

51. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 30, wherein the catheter body comprises a proximal member defining a distal region, a distal member, and a tip carried by the distal member, and the steering center support extends from the proximal member distal region to the tip.

52. (Previously Presented) A catheter, comprising:

a hollow catheter body including proximal member defining a distal region and a distal member defining a distal end with a distal end opening, at least one of the proximal and distal members having a side wall and an aperture extending through a predetermined portion of the side wall;

a tip member carried by the distal end of the distal member that covers the distal end opening;

at least one internal component located within the catheter body and secured to the tip member; and

adhesive material located within the hollow catheter body such that at least a portion of the adhesive material is in the vicinity of the side wall aperture, the adhesive material in the vicinity of the side wall aperture securing the proximal member distal region to the at least one internal component.

53. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 52, wherein the at least one internal component comprises a guide coil.

54. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 52, wherein the at least one internal component comprises a steering center support.

55. (Currently Amended) A catheter as claimed in claim 54, wherein the at least one internal component comprises, comprising:

a hollow catheter body including proximal member defining a distal region and a distal member defining a distal end with a distal end opening, at least one of the proximal and distal members having a side wall and an aperture extending through a predetermined portion of the side wall;

a tip member carried by the distal end of the distal member that covers the distal end opening;

at least one internal component, including a steering center support and a sleeve covering at least a portion of the steering center support, located within the catheter body and secured to the tip member; and

adhesive material located within the hollow catheter body such that at least a portion of the adhesive material is in the vicinity of the side wall aperture, the adhesive material in the vicinity of the side wall aperture securing the proximal member distal region to the at least one internal component.

56. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 52, wherein the adhesive material extends around the periphery of the internal component.

57. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 52, wherein the distal member includes at least one energy transmission element.

58. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 52, wherein the tip member comprises a tip energy transmission element.

59. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 52, further comprising:

a torque transfer device located within at least a portion of the adhesive material and adapted to engage at least a portion of the at least one internal component and transfer torque to the at least one internal component.

60. (Previously Presented) A catheter, comprising:

a hollow catheter body including

a proximal member defining an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a distal region, and including a side wall having an aperture formed therein, and

a distal member defining an inner diameter that is substantially the same as the proximal member inner diameter, an outer diameter that is substantially the same as the proximal member outer diameter, and a proximal region,

one of the proximal member distal region and the distal member proximal region including a small portion that overlaps the other of the proximal member distal region and the distal member proximal region, thereby defining an overlapping region;

a bond at the overlapping region securing the proximal member to the distal member; and

at least one internal component located within at least the distal member.

61. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 60, wherein the bond comprises a thermal bond.

62. (Canceled)

63. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 61, further comprising:

adhesive material connecting the proximal member to the at least one internal component, at least a portion of the adhesive material being in the vicinity of the side wall aperture.

64. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 60, wherein the at least one internal component comprises a guide coil.

65. (Currently Amended) A catheter, comprising:
a hollow catheter body including

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a proximal member defining an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a distal region, and

a distal member defining an inner diameter that is substantially the same as the proximal member inner diameter, an outer diameter that is substantially the same as the proximal member outer diameter, and a proximal region,

one of the proximal member distal region and the distal member proximal region including a small portion that overlaps the other of the proximal member distal region and the distal member proximal region, thereby defining an overlapping region;

a bond at the overlapping region securing the proximal member to the distal member; and

a steering center support located within at least the distal member; and
a steering wire having a distal end secured within the distal member.

66. (Currently Amended) A catheter as claimed in claim 65, wherein the at least one internal component comprises, comprising:

a hollow catheter body including
a proximal member defining an inner diameter, an outer diameter,
and a distal region, and

a distal member defining an inner diameter that is substantially the same as the proximal member inner diameter, an outer diameter that is substantially the same as the proximal member outer diameter, and a proximal region,

one of the proximal member distal region and the distal member proximal region including a small portion that overlaps the other of the proximal member distal region and the distal member proximal region, thereby defining an overlapping region;

a bond at the overlapping region securing the proximal member to the distal member;

a steering center support located within at least the distal member; and
a sleeve covering at least a portion of the steering center support.

67. (Previously Presented) A catheter, comprising:

a hollow catheter body including

a proximal member defining an inner diameter, an outer diameter, and a distal region, and

a distal member defining an inner diameter that is substantially the same as the proximal member inner diameter, an outer diameter that is substantially the same as the proximal member outer diameter, and a proximal region,

one of the proximal member distal region and the distal member proximal region including a small portion that overlaps the other of the proximal member distal region and the distal member proximal region, thereby defining an overlapping region;

a bond at the overlapping region securing the proximal member to the distal member;

at least one internal component located within at least the distal member; and

adhesive extending around the periphery of the internal component.

68. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 60, wherein the distal member includes at least one energy transmission element.

69. (Previously Presented) A catheter as claimed in claim 68, wherein the at least one energy transmission element comprises a tip energy transmission element, and the at least one internal component is connected to the tip energy transmission element.

70. (New) A catheter as claimed in claim 30, wherein the hollow catheter body defines a longitudinal axis and at least a portion of the steering center support is positioned on the longitudinal axis.
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71. (New) A catheter as claimed in claim 30, wherein the steering center support is not a coil.

72. (New) A catheter as claimed in claim 30, wherein the steering center support defines a longitudinal axis when in an unbent state and is configured such that it is more likely to bend in a first direction away from the longitudinal axis than in a second direction away from the longitudinal axis when a pulling force is applied to the steering center support.

73. (New) A catheter as claimed in claim 52, wherein the proximal member defines a proximal region and the at least one internal component is secured to the tip member and the proximal member distal region such that torsional force applied to the proximal member proximal region will be transmitted from the proximal member distal region to the tip member.